

DRYING CABINET

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the general art of
5 showers, and to the particular field of shower enclosures.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

After showering or bathing most people use some sort of
towel to dry their body and/or their hair. These towels
range from small highly water absorbent towels to large bath
10 sheets.

While toweling is an effective method for drying one's
body and/or hair after bathing, toweling has several
drawbacks. For example, it may be difficult for some people
to reach certain areas of their body using a towel.
15 Furthermore, towels can be bulky and take up a great deal of
space. This is an especially onerous drawback if the towel
must be transported before and after use, such as may be the
case if the towel is carried to or from a health club. The
wet towel may be difficult to carry in a gym bag, especially
20 if the towel is used early in the morning and will not be
removed until late at night.

Still further, some towels may become mildewed, especially if they are kept in a closed gym bag for extended periods of time.

Furthermore, some towels may irritate a user's skin.

5 Therefore, there is a need for a means for drying a person after bathing which avoids the use of a towel.

Some bathing areas have high intensity lamps that are intended to dry a person. Such lamps often make a room unduly hot and are not entirely efficient.

10 Therefore, there is a need for an efficient means for drying a person after bathing.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is a main object of the present invention to provide a means for drying a person after bathing which avoids the
15 use of a towel.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an efficient means for drying a person after bathing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 These, and other, objects are achieved by a drying cabinet which has a plurality of air nozzles that direct drying air onto a person standing inside the cabinet. The

nozzles are adjustable so a person can control the direction of air flow and people of various heights and sizes can use the cabinet.

Using the drying cabinet embodying the present
5 invention will permit a person to dry his or her body without the use of a towel so all areas of the body will be efficiently dried without irritating the person's skin. The apparatus will efficiently dry an individual without unduly heating areas of a room that may not be amenable to such
10 heating. The drying cabinet embodying the present invention can be used in an individual residence or in a community area. Since air is the only thing that contacts the user, the dryer remains sanitary and clean.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

15 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a drying cabinet embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of an adjustable air nozzle that is located on the rear wall of the drying cabinet.

20 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following

detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

Referring to the Figures, it can be understood that the present invention is embodied in a drying cabinet 10 which is used by a person after bathing or showering to dry off.

5 The person steps into the drying cabinet 10 and is dried by warm dry air.

Cabinet 10 comprises a housing 12 which has a first end 14 which is a bottom end when the housing 12 is in a use orientation shown in Figure 1. First end 14 has an interior
10 surface 16 and an exterior surface 18.

Housing 12 further includes a second end 20 which is a top end when the housing 12 is in the use orientation. The second end 20 has an interior surface 22 and an exterior surface 24.

15 A longitudinal axis 26 extends between the first end 14 of the housing 12 and the second end 30 of the housing 12.

Housing 12 further includes a first side 30. The first side 30 has an interior surface 32 and an exterior surface
34.

20 Housing 12 further includes a second side 36. The second side 36 has an interior surface 38 and an exterior surface 40.

A transverse axis 42 extends between the first side 30 and the second side 36 of the housing 12.

Housing 12 further includes a first face 50 which is a front face when the housing 12 is in the use orientation. The first face 50 has an interior surface 52 and an exterior surface 54.

5 Housing 12 further includes a second face 60 which is a rear face when the housing 12 is in the use orientation. The second face 60 has an interior surface 62 and an exterior surface 64.

10 A thickness axis 66 extends between the first face 50 of the housing 12 and the second face 60 of the housing 12.

Housing 12 further includes an interior volume 70 defined by the interior surfaces of the first end 14, the second end 20, the first side 30, the second side 36, the first face 50 and the second face 60.

15 A door 72 is hingeably mounted on the first face 50 of the housing 12 to move between an open condition shown in Figure 1 and a closed condition. The door 72 includes a first surface 74 which is an outside surface, a second surface 76 which is an inside surface, and a handle 78 which
20 is operable from either the inside surface 76 or the outside surface 74.

A plurality of first air-dispensing nozzles, such as nozzle 80, are adjustably mounted on the first side 30 of the housing 12. The first air-dispensing nozzles 80 are

spaced apart from each other in the direction of the longitudinal axis 26 of the housing 12. Each first air-dispensing nozzle 80 includes a pivot connection, such as pivot connection 82, an air-dispensing end (not visible in Figure 1) and an air deflector (not visible in Figure 1) located adjacent to the air-dispensing end.

A first air manifold 86 fluidically connects each of the first air-dispensing nozzles 80 together. First air manifold 86 is located outside the housing 12 and adjacent to the exterior surface 32 of the first side 30 of the housing 12 and includes a connection conduit, such as connection conduit 88, for each air-dispensing nozzle 80.

A plurality of second air-dispensing nozzles, such as air-dispensing nozzle 90, are adjustably mounted on the second side 36 of the housing 12. All of the air-dispensing nozzles of cabinet 10 are identical, therefore, the nozzles not visible in Figure 1 are identical to the nozzles that are visible in Figure 1. The second air-dispensing nozzles 90 are spaced apart from each other in the direction of the longitudinal axis 26 of the housing 12. Each second air-dispensing nozzle 90 includes a pivot connection 92, an air-dispensing end 94, and an air deflector 96 located adjacent to the air-dispensing end 94.

A second air manifold 96 fluidically connects each of

the second air-dispensing nozzles 90 together. The second air manifold 96 is located outside the housing 12 and adjacent to the exterior surface 40 of the second side 36 of the housing 12 and includes a connection conduit, such as connection conduit 98, for each air-dispensing nozzle 90.

A plurality of third air-dispensing nozzles, such as air-dispensing nozzle 100, are adjustably mounted on the second face 60 of the housing 12. The third air-dispensing nozzles 100 are spaced apart from each other in the direction of the longitudinal axis 26 of the housing 12. Each third air-dispensing nozzle 100 includes a pivot connection 102, an air-dispensing end 104, and an air deflector 105 located adjacent to the air dispensing end 104.

A third air manifold 106 fluidically connects each of the third air-dispensing nozzles 100 together. The third air manifold 106 is located outside the housing 12 and adjacent to the exterior surface 64 of the second face 60 of the housing 12 and includes a connection conduit, such as connection conduit 108, for each air-dispensing nozzle 100.

A source of heated air, such as air pump 110, is fluidically connected by an exhaust conduit 112 to the first air manifold 86 and to the second air manifold 96 and to the third air manifold 106 to direct air into the interior

volume 70 of the housing 12 via the manifolds 86, 96, 106 and via the air-dispensing nozzles 80, 90, 100. Air from a heated source 114 is fluidically connected to the pump 110 by a conduit 116.

5 A drain 120 is located in the first end 14 of the housing 12 and is fluidically connected to a waste water collection system, such as a drain of a shower to conduct water that falls off of a person using the cabinet.

10 It is understood that while certain forms of the present invention have been illustrated and described herein, it is not to be limited to the specific forms or arrangements of parts described and shown.